

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/807,601

Examiner

R. Alexander Smith

Applicant(s)

HALE ET AL.

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment after final filed on January 19, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-8,10-16,18-21 and 23-26.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Reasons for Allowance

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance of claims 1-8, 10-16, 18-21 and 23-26.

For independent claim 1 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest an image forming apparatus having the electrical connector assembly comprising a nonconductive wall disposed between an electrical contact and said shaft, said electrical contact being operative to bias said photoconductive member to an operating voltage without bias said shaft to said operating voltage in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 2-4 are allowed due to their dependency on allowed claim 1.

For independent claim 5 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a photoconductive member having an insulating end cap, said end cap including a bore that is at least partly defined by a cylindrical inner wall, the cylindrical inner wall being disposed between an electrical contact assembly and said shaft, said electrical contact assembly operative to bias said drum, but not said shaft, to an operating voltage in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 6-8 are allowed due to their dependency on allowed claim 5.

For independent claim 10 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a photoconductive member having an insulating end cap, said end cap including a bore and further comprising a cup having an outer wall, a floor and an inner wall, an electrical contact assembly operative to bias said drum, but not said shaft, to an operating voltage in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 11-14 are allowed due to their dependency on allowed claim 10.

For independent claim 15 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a photoconductive member comprising an electrically conductive brake member additionally biasing said cylindrical member to an operating voltage, and an insulating end cap including an inner wall, said brake member comprising a coil disposed around the inner wall in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 16, 18 and 19 are allowed due to their dependency on allowed claim 15.

For independent claim 20 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a photoconductive member having an electrical contact operative to bias the cylindrical member to an operating voltage, wherein said electrical contact does not bias the shaft to said operating voltage as said electrical contact is electrically isolated by an insulating end cap disposed

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between the electrical contact and the shaft in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claims 21, 23 and 24 are allowed due to their dependency on allowed claim 20.

For independent claim 25 the prior art of record does not disclose or clearly suggest a method of electrically biasing a photoconductive member comprising electrically isolating the shaft from the cylindrical member, and biasing the member to the operating voltage while interposing an insulating wall at least partly between said electrical contact and said shaft in combination with the remaining limitations of the claim.

Claim 26 is allowed due to its dependency on allowed claim 25.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to R. Alexander Smith whose telephone number is 571-272-2251. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F. Gutierrez can be reached on 571-272-2245. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Alexander Smith', with a large, stylized initial 'R' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

R. Alexander Smith
Primary Examiner
Technology Center 2800

RAS
January 31, 2006